## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a visualization of an underlying architecture of a software system within a network, said method comprising:

accessing a datafile descriptive of the underlying architecture; transforming the datafile to determine architectural components used to form the underlying architecture;

rendering, via a visualizer, a plurality of graphical elements representative of the architectural components, the graphical elements forming a graphical representation of the underlying architecture, the graphical representation dependent on a particular mode of a plurality of modes of operation of the visualizer;

displaying, on a web page, the graphical representation of the underlying architecture of the software system;

communicating the rendered graphical representation across the network; and wherein the visualizer is utilized for visualizing, using the web page, the underlying architecture of the software system during conceptual, development and deployment phases of the software system.;

wherein the step of visualizing during the conceptual phase of the system is performed by the visualizer operating in a direct interaction simulation mode before the underlying architecture has been implemented in the development and deployment phases;

wherein the step of visualizing during the development phase of the system is performed by the visualizer operating in a prototype simulation mode; and

wherein the step of visualizing during the deployment phase of the system is performed by the visualizer operating in an architecture monitor mode.

- 2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: generating a plurality of subsections of the graphical image; and locating the graphical elements in the subsections as described by the datafile.
- 3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the subsections are displayed as tiers.
- 4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising providing access to the visualization on a network.
  - 5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the network is the Internet.
  - 6. (Canceled).
- 7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving data for said rendering from a network connection.
- 8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising: storing the data.
  - 9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: providing at least one control on the graphical display; receiving a selection of the at least one control; and

performing a graphical operation on the graphical display indicative of dynamic functional operations of the underlying architecture.

- 10. (Canceled)
- 11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the datafile includes extensible markup language (XML).
- 12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising executing interactive operations to provide a graphical representation of collaborative interaction between the graphical elements.
- 13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising altering the graphical elements based on a selected configuration of the software system.
- 14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: receiving an event initiated by an operation performed in a second graphical display operating in isolation of actual components of the underlying architecture; and performing an operation on the graphical display based on the event.
- 15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: receiving an event initiated by an operation performed in a second graphical display operating in conjunction with actual components of the underlying architecture; and performing an operation on the graphical display based on the event.
  - 16. (Canceled)
- 17. (Previously Presented) The ASP system according to claim 41, wherein said visualizer further: generates a plurality of subsections on the graphical representation; and applies a plurality of graphical elements in the subsections.
  - 18-20. (Canceled)
- 21. (Previously Presented) The ASP system according to claim 41, wherein the visualization is displayed as a graphical user interface having at least one control for altering the visualization.
- 22. (Previously Presented) The ASP system according to claim 21, wherein the at least one control initiates a simulated event.
  - 23. (Canceled)
- 24. (Previously Presented) The ASP system according to claim 41, wherein the datafile includes extensible markup language (XML) code.
- 25. (Previously Presented) The ASP system according to claim 41, host computing system further:

receives an event initiated by an operation performed in a graphical user interface operating in isolation of actual components of the architecture; and

performs an operation on the graphical user interface based on the event.

26. (Previously Presented) The ASP system according to claim 41, wherein said host computing system further:

receives an event initiated by an operation performed in a graphical user interface operating in conjunction with actual components of the underlying architecture; and

performs an operation on the graphical display based on the event.

## 27-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions including instructions, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

access a datafile descriptive of the underlying architecture; transform the datafile to determine architectural components used to form the underlying architecture;

render, via a visualizer, a plurality of graphical elements representative of the architectural components on a graphical display, the graphical elements forming a graphical representation of the underlying architecture, the graphical representation dependent on a particular mode of a plurality of modes of operation of the visualizer;

display, on a web page, the graphical representation of the underlying architecture of a software system;

wherein the instructions further cause the processor to communicate the graphical representation of the underlying architecture across a network; and

wherein the visualizer is utilized for visualizing, using the web page, the underlying architecture of the software system during conceptual, development and deployment phases of the software system.;

wherein the step of visualizing during the conceptual phase of the system is performed by the visualizer operating in a direct interaction simulation mode before the underlying architecture has been implemented in the development and deployment phases;

wherein the step of visualizing during the development phase of the system is performed by the visualizer operating in a prototype simulation mode; and

wherein the step of visualizing during the deployment phase of the system is performed by the visualizer operating in an architecture monitor mode.

- 33. (Canceled).
- 34. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the network is the Internet.
  - 35-40. (Canceled)
- 41. (Currently Amended) An application service provider (ASP) system for visualizing an architecture of another distinct system, the ASP system comprising:
  - a datafile including a description of the architecture;
  - a host computing system for transforming the datafile;

a visualizer for receiving the transformed datafile and visualizing the architecture, the visualizer operating in one of a plurality of modes of operation;

a visual display for receiving and displaying the visualized architecture of said another distinct system;

wherein the visualizer is utilized for visualizing the architecture of the system during conceptual, development and deployment phases of the system; and wherein the visual display is a web page on the Internet.

wherein the step of visualizing during the conceptual phase of the system is performed by the visualizer operating in a direct interaction simulation mode before the architecture has been implemented in the development and deployment phases;

wherein the step of visualizing during the development phase of the system is performed by the visualizer operating in a prototype simulation mode; and

wherein the step of visualizing during the deployment phase of the system is performed by the visualizer operating in an architecture monitor mode.

## 42-44. (Canceled)

- 45. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of rendering, via a visualizer, a plurality of graphical elements representative of conceptual architectural components, the visualizer rendering the graphical elements in a direct interaction simulation mode.
- 46. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of rendering, via a visualizer, a plurality of graphical elements representative of conceptual and developed architectural components, the visualizer rendering the graphical elements in a prototype monitoring mode.
- 47. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of rendering, via a visualizer, a plurality of graphical elements representative of developed architectural components, the visualizer rendering the graphical elements in a architecture monitor mode.